

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rudy Kratz on 5/30/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the abstract lines 5-7 , delete [The glazing panels may beof the seam flanges.]

Claim 1 line 3 after "plastic", insert ---- having a first end with a top surface ----

Lines 4-6, replace [an upstanding seam flange.....on the first glazing panel] with ---- first and second upstanding seam flanges extending from the top surface of the first end of the first glazing panel ---

Lines 7-8, replace [plastic; a first end on the second glazing panel] with ---- plastic having a first end with a top surface ----

Lines 9-10, replace [an upstanding seam flange being joined....glazing panel;] with ---- first and second upstanding seam flanges extending from the top surface of the first end of the second glazing panel; -----

Line 12, after " respective ", insert ---- first ----

Line 21, replace [the upper] with ---- an upper ---

Line 27, after " engages the ", insert ---- first ----

Lines 28-29, replace [is not in engagement with the upstanding seam flanges]
with ----- engages the second upstanding seam flanges;

wherein the first and second upstanding seam flanges each have
toothed surfaces and wherein the internal and external connectors each have toothed surfaces for
engagement with the toothed surfaces of the first and second upstanding seam flanges
respectively -----

Cancel claim 3

Claim 4 line 1, replace [3] with ----- 2 ---

Claim 5 line 2, after “toothed surfaces”, insert ---- of the internal and external connectors

Claim 7 last line, after “with the “, insert --- first ---

Claim 8 line 3 before “upstanding”, insert ---- first ---

Line 3, after “of the “, insert --- first upstanding ----

Claim 9 line 3, after “of the “, insert ----- second upstanding -----

Claim 10 line 2, replace [the retention clip engages the] with ---- a portion of the
retention clip engages the first ----

Line 3, after “ends of the “, insert ---- first ----

Claim 11 line 2, delete [each of the glazing panel... portions; and]

Line 4, replace [seam portions] with ---- first and second seam flanges----

Claim 12 line 2, replace [the retention clip engages the] with ---- a portion of the
retention clip engages the first ---

Art Unit: 3633

Claim 14 lines 3-6, replace [plastic; a pair of inneron the first glazing panel] with -- plastic having a first end with a top surface; a pair of inner and outer upstanding seam flanges extending from the top surface of the first end of the first glazing panel ----

Lines 7-11, replace plastic; a first end on..... end thereon] with ---- plastic having a first end with a top surface; a pair of inner and outer upstanding seam flanges extending from the top surface of the first end of the second glazing panel ----

Line 13, after “ respective “, insert ---- inner -----

Line 19, replace [and] with -----

an internal connector connected to the inner seam flanges and covered by the seam covering member; and -----

Line 21, delete [for]

Line 23, after “loads”, insert ---- ;

wherein the inner and outer upstanding flanges each have toothed surfaces and wherein the inner connector and the seam covering member each have toothed surfaces for engagement with the toothed surfaces of the inner and outer upstanding seam flanges respectively-----

Cancel claim 15

Claim 25 line 1, after “ A “, insert --- glazing ----

Line 2 after “between the”, insert ---- inner ----

Line 3, after “ respective”, insert ---- inner ----

Cancel claims 44-46, 73, and 76

Claim 77 line 2, after “ wherein”, insert ---- a portion of----

Lines 2-3, replace [the connection of the internal connector and the covering]
with ----that of the internal connector and the external ---

Claim 78 line 3, after “to the “, insert --- first ---

Claim 79 line 2, after “ upper ends of the “, insert ---- first ----

Cancel claim 80

Claim 81 line 1, replace [80] with ---- 1 ----

Line 2, after “ clip and”, insert ---- the ----

Line 3, replace [second covering] with ---- external ----

Claim 82 line 1, replace [80] with --- 1 ---

Line 3, before “ the clip “, insert ---- a portion of ----

Cancel claim 83

Claim 85 lines 2-3, replace [comprising: an internal connectorseam flanges and] with
---- wherein the internal connector is ----

Line 5 after “ clip, “, insert ---- and wherein ----

Line 5 after “covering member”, insert --- is ----

Line 6 after “ a seam”, insert --- defined ---

claim 86 line 1, replace [15] with ----14 ----

claim 87 line 1, replace [15] with ---- 14 ----

Cancel claim 88-94

Claim 95 line 7, replace [the seam] with ---- a seam defined ----

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-12, 14, 25, 29-30, 74-75, 77-79, 81-82, 84-87, 95 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Per claim 1, prior art does not show a panel system comprising first and second glazing panels of plastic, first and second upstanding seam flanges extending from the top surface of the first end of each of the first and second panels, a retention clip being disposed between adjacent first ends of the first and second panels and being adjacent their respective first upstanding seam flanges, an internal connector loosely engaging the glazing panels, an external connector configured to cover the internal connector, an upper portion of the clip and the upstanding seam flanges, the external connector substantially sealingly engaging the panels to provide substantial waterproof protection to the covered internal connector, upper portion of the clip and upstanding seam flanges, the clip, internal connector, and the external connector are three discrete and separable bodies, the internal connector engages the first upstanding seam flanges and covers the seam defined therebetween, the external connector engages the second upstanding seam flanges, wherein the second upstanding seam flanges have toothed surfaces and the internal and external connector has toothed surfaces for engagement with the toothed surfaces of the first and second upstanding seam flanges in combination with other claimed limitations.

Per claim 14, prior art does not show a panel system having first and second glazing panels of plastic each having a first end with a top surface, a pair of inner and outer upstanding seam flanges extending from the top surface of the first end of each of the first and second glazing panel, a retention clip being disposed between adjacent first ends of the panels and being adjacent their respective inner upstanding seam flanges, a base of the clip being secured for

Art Unit: 3633

being secured to a support member, a web portion of the clip extending upwardly from the clip base and extending between the adjacent first ends of the first and second glazing panels, a seam covering member engaging the pair of outer seam flanges and covering both pairs of inner and outer seam flanges, an internal connector connected to the inner seam flanges and covered by the seam covering member, the inner and outer upstanding seam flanges have toothed surfaces and wherein the internal connector and seam covering member has toothed surfaces for engagement with the toothed surfaces of the inner and outer upstanding seam flanges in combination with other claimed limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 571-272-6864. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Phi D A/
Examiner, Art Unit 3633

Phi Dieu Tran A

6/6/08